

[24th August 1925]

*Accounts of the taluk boards of Anantapur, etc.*

\* 342 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the action the Government propose to take in regard to all or any of the taluk boards of Anantapur, Dharmapuram, Penukonda, whose general accounts closed with a deficit last year?

A.—According to the budgets for 1924-25, it was expected that the Anantapur, Penukonda and Dharmavaram taluk boards would have deficits of Rs. 2,664, Rs. 9,073 and Rs. 7,620 respectively at the end of that year. The Government sanctioned compassionate grants equivalent to the deficits to the first two boards to enable them to wipe off their deficits. The Dharmavaram Taluk Board was requested to levy the optional land-cess in order to avoid the deficit. It is not known if in spite of the above grants the Anantapur and Penukonda taluk boards had deficits on 31st March 1925. The Government have not yet received the accounts of the boards for 1925-26 and have called for them.

The budget of the Anantapur Taluk Board for 1925-26 has been received. The budgets of the other two taluk boards have not been received. The Government will consider the question of giving compassionate grants if necessity arises, to such boards as are expected to have deficits at the end of the current year.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Is it the policy of the Government to pay off the deficits of taluk boards if they are not able to balance their budgets normally?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“If the taluk boards concerned deserve paying off their deficits, if they show that there is an absolute necessity for them to receive the help of the Government and that they have done all that is possible under the Act to make their financial position sound, then the Government may consider their cases.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether such an opportunity was given to the boards that have been abolished to explain their position?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I said that only in cases where it was absolutely necessary the Government would consider.”

**Medical.***Management of the Leper Asylum, Chingleput.*

\* 343 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations were concluded between the Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters and the Government of Madras to entrust the management and care of the Leper Asylum at Chingleput to the sisters of that order;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have changed their policy all of a sudden and entered into correspondence with the authorities of the All-England Leper Mission to take over the management of the asylum, and if so, what are the circumstances that led to such a sudden change of